

Pumps fail to stop flooding

High volume of water too much to handle, says City Hall official

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THE pumphouse failed to pump out the rain water fast enough to prevent two underpasses at the Jalan Loke Yew-Jalan Cheras roundabout from being flooded last Tuesday.

A Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) representative said the high volume of rain water was too much for the pumps to handle.

"There are three big pumps and a smaller one.

"Usually when there is no rain, only the small pump will function to pump out drain water from the underpass.

"The other three will function according to flood sensors," he said at a press conference yesterday.

Both the underpasses, one connecting Jalan Loke Yew and Jalan Yaacob Latif and the other for Jalan Cheras-bound and south-bound traffic, were flooded due to heavy rain.

The water rose more than a metre at the underpasses and were closed to traffic.

Cheras MP Tan Kok Wai said the floods should not occur in both underpasses as there was a pumphouse to pump out water in case of a downpour.

He said both the underpasses and the pumphouse were a pack-



Inundated: The roundabout in Taman Midah flooded after a downpour.

age that came along with the widening of Jalan Loke Yew at a cost of RM65mil in 2008.

"The purpose of the underpass is to reduce the number of cars

using the roundabout.

"If the problem is not solved it will cause serious congestion at the roundabouts and affect many road users," he said at a press

conference yesterday.

Tan said there was a similar incident two years ago when a downpour caused the underpasses to be flooded.



Out of use:
Heavy rain on Tuesday turned two underpasses at the Jalan Loke Yew-Jalan Cheras roundabout into canals. This picture shows the one connecting Jalan Loke Yew and Jalan Yaacob Latif.

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The DBKL representative also said the flood that occurred two years ago was caused by two pumps that were not fully operational.

He said, however, that the two water pumps had already been repaired.

"This problem has to be resolved. This pumphouse was designed to handle the heavy rain and now it has failed to perform.

"Since both water pumps have already been repaired there should be no more flooding," Tan said.

"This is not the only roundabout that is affected when there is heavy rain," he added.

"The roundabouts in Jalan Chan Sow Lin and Taman Midah are also flooded when there is heavy rain.

Tan said there might be other factors but hoped that the DBKL would conduct studies because this was a matter of public interest and also concerned the safety of motorists.

"I hope remedial work can be carried out," Tan added.